

Parents & Graduation: 10 Ways to Keep Your Teen from Drinking

1. Sign a Graduation Pact

Many schools have students sign a graduation pact that forbids drinking or drug use on graduation night. Encourage your teen to sign or get together with other parents and teens to create your own agreement.

2. Create a Reward System

You may punish your teen when they make the wrong decision, but you also have to reward them when they make the right ones. Pressure to drink on graduation night is high, so commend them for staying sober with a reward you both agree on.

3. Host a Post Graduation Party

Your teen doesn't know which post graduation party he/she is planning to attend, but you still want them to be chaperoned and safe. Make your presence known. Offer to host a post graduation party with all of their friends. You'll be able to keep an eye on your teen throughout the party and make sure they don't leave early to attend a random party. Involve other parents to supplement the cost and make it a booze-free party to remember.

4. Get Their Friends Involved

There's strength in numbers, so get your teen's friends involved by having them sign a no-drinking pact. If their friends aren't drinking, there's less of a chance your teen will.

5. Explain the Consequences

Tell your teen that you have a zero-tolerance policy on drinking. Sit down and calmly explain the consequences for breaking the law and your rules. Outline strict punishments and stick to them.

6. Educate Them on the Effects of Drinking

Most schools hold a drinking and driving assembly prior to prom or graduation. Take it a step further and talk to your teen one-on-one, or consider volunteering together at a local MADD or SADD chapter so your teens see the consequences of drinking firsthand.

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7. No Questions Asked Policy

Try to stick by a “no question asked” policy. No matter where or when, you want your teen to feel comfortable enough to call you in case of an emergency. Whether they’re just tired or being pressured to drink, the important thing is that they feel comfortable enough to ask you for help.

8. Lead by Example

Teens take cues from their parents, so it’s imperative to instill the importance of responsible drinking early on. Try to keep minimal (if any) amounts of alcohol in the house and always keep it locked up.

9. Get to Know Their Friends

Friends are very important to teens, so it’s crucial to get to know their pals. Have them over to your house for movie night, or dinner – you can even extend the invite to the parents. The more parents you have looking out for your teen, the better. If your son or daughter is hanging out with someone you don’t approve of, talk about it with them and explain your concerns in a civil way. You may not be able to prevent them from hanging out together after graduation, but you’ll feel better once you set boundaries for your own teen.

10. Set Some Ground Rules

You may not want to think of yourself as being overprotective, but when it comes to graduation and first week activities, the more questions you ask, the less surprises you’ll have to face. Before graduation, make sure you talk to your son or daughter about drugs, alcohol, sex, and the consequences. It also doesn’t hurt to team up with other parents to keep an eye on each other’s teens, especially if they’re attending a post-graduation party at a friend’s house.

Adapted from Promspot.com. Website accessed 04/21/08
See addition information on Promspot.com

Parent Pledge

As a parent concerned about the health and safety of my child, I pledge that I will not provide him/her – and especially someone else’s child – with alcohol, nor will I support underage drinking parties.

Underage drinking can ruin a young life, and I want to be part of a caring community that says “We do not support underage drinking!”

Parent Signature

County of Residence

Please return your signed pledge to:
Pledge, DAODAS, 101 Executive Center Dr., Ste. 215, Columbia, SC 29210

Have a teen
drinking party.
Go to jail.



A 30-day sentence and \$1,075 in fines and fees. That's what you can get for giving alcohol to your teen's friends. Even if it's in your home. Even with their parents' permission. Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

For more information, go to www.daodas.org

Rent a hotel room
for a teen celebration.

They drink.

You go to jail.



**It's that time of year. Prom.
Graduation. First week at the beach.
“Everybody’s” going, and everybody’s getting a room.**

Even if you're comfortable renting a room in which underage drinking can occur, the law is not. South Carolina statute 45-2-40 stipulates that a person who rents or leases a room in a lodging establishment in which persons under age 21 consume or possess beer, wine or other alcohol is guilty of a misdemeanor can be fined or imprisoned. Specifically, you may be subject to a fine of up to \$1,075 and 30 days in jail.

**Don't be a party to teenage drinking.
Think twice before you reserve a room.**

For more information, go to www.parentswhohostsc.com

South Carolina
DAODAS

Sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

Parents Who Host, Lose the Most is an original program of the Drug-Free Action Alliance



Give a teen alcohol.
Go to jail.



What you need to know:

- It's illegal to give alcohol to your teen's underage friends under any circumstances — even in your own home, even with their parents' permission.
- You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to consume or possess alcohol in your home or on your property.

What can happen if you break the law:

- You face a maximum sentence of 30 days in jail and \$1,075 in fines and fees.
- Your penalties can “stack up,” as you can be ticketed for each underage person you provide with alcohol.
- You can be sued if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.

What you can do to protect yourself:

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21
- Be at home when your teen has friends over
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by teen's friends

Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

For more information, go to www.parentswhohostsc.com

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SOUTH CAROLINA UNDERAGE DRINKING DATA

From the 2007 YRBS:

- Past-month drinking: **36.8%**; 2005: **43.2%**
(15% drop)
- Lifetime drinking: **69.7%**; 2005: **71.1%**
(2% drop)
- Past-month binge drinking: **20.1%**; 2005: **23.6%**
(15% drop)
- Past-month drove while drinking: **9.9%**; 2005: **11.5%**
(14% drop)
- % of drinkers who began before age 13:
37%; 2005: **37%**
- % "definitely" think it is harmful to drink 1-2 times/month:
33.5%; 2005: **28.3%**
- % "definitely" think it is harmful to drink 2-3 times/month:
50.5%; 2005: **47.1%**
- Past-month driving with a drinking driver:
26.3%; 2005: **30.0%**

Source of last drink (for drinkers only):

- Store: **5%**
- Restaurant: **2%** (total retail: 8%)
- Public event: **1%**
- Gave someone \$ to buy for me: **20%**
- Some gave it to me: **46%**
- Took it from a store or family: **10%**
- Other: **18%**

Drink of choice (among drinkers with a usual type):

- Liquor: **41%**
- Alcopops: **27%**
- Beer: **21%**
- Wine coolers: **8%**
- Wine: **4%**

Other:

Local law enforcement retail violation rate in compliance checks (FY '07):

20.3%

SLED retail violation rate in compliance checks (FY '07): **@ 15%**

Underage Drinking in South Carolina

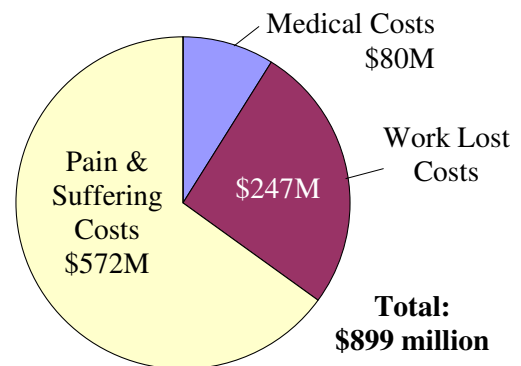
The Facts

Tragic health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is a causal factor in a host of serious problems, including homicide, suicide, traumatic injury, drowning, burns, violent and property crime, high risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and need for treatment for alcohol abuse and dependence.

Problems and Costs Associated with Underage Drinking in South Carolina

Underage drinking cost the citizens of South Carolina \$899 million in 2005. These costs include medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth.¹ This translates to a cost of \$2,203 per year for each youth in the State. South Carolina ranks 24th highest among the 50 states for the cost per youth of underage drinking. Excluding pain and suffering from these costs, the direct costs of underage drinking incurred through medical care and loss of work cost South Carolina \$327 million each year.

**Costs of Underage Drinking
South Carolina 2005**



Costs of Underage Drinking by Problem, South Carolina 2005

Problem	Total Costs (in millions)
Youth Violence	\$462.2
Youth Traffic Crashes	\$238.3
High-Risk Sex, Ages 14-20	\$75.0
Youth Property Crime	\$52.4
Youth Injury	\$24.2
Poisonings and Psychoses	\$5.1
FAS Among Mothers Age 15-20	\$14.2
Youth Alcohol Treatment	\$27.3
Total	\$898.8

Youth violence and traffic crashes attributable to alcohol use by underage youth in South Carolina represent the largest costs for the State. However, a host of other problems contribute substantially to the overall cost. Among teen mothers, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) alone costs South Carolina \$14.2 million.

Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence

and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21.² In 2004, 916 youth 12- 20 years old were admitted for alcohol treatment in South Carolina, accounting for 7% of all treatment admissions for alcohol abuse in the State.³

Alcohol Consumption by Youth in South Carolina

Underage drinking is widespread in South Carolina. Approximately 186,000 underage youth in South Carolina drink each year. In 2005, according to self-reports by South Carolina students in grades 9-12:⁴

- 71% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.
- 26% had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13.
- 43% had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasion in the past 30 days.
- 24% had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (i.e. binge drinking) in the past 30 days.
- 6% had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.

In 2005, underage drinkers consumed 12.2% of all alcohol sold in South Carolina, totaling \$228 million in sales. These sales provided profits of \$110 million to the alcohol industry.¹

Federal Resources Available for Combating Underage Drinking in South Carolina

South Carolina received \$360,000 in 2005 to address underage drinking for the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Additional funds available for substance abuse prevention and treatment in 2005 in South Carolina include:

- \$20.5 million through Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA).
- \$0.8 million through Substance Abuse Prevention Discretionary Funding administered by SAMHSA.
- \$2 million through Substance Abuse Treatment Discretionary Funding administered by SAMHSA.⁵
- \$5.6 million through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants Program of the U.S. Department of Education.⁶

Total funds available in South Carolina for combating underage drinking	\$29 million
Total underage drinking sales	\$228 million
Total alcohol industry profits on underage drinking	\$110 million
Total underage drinking costs	\$899 million

Produced by: The International Institute for Alcohol Awareness (IIAA), a Project of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). www.beawarenow.org.

¹ Miller, TR, Levy, DT, Spicer, RS, & Taylor, DM. (2006) Societal costs of underage drinking *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 67(4) 519-528

² Grant, B.F., & Dawson, D.A. (1997). Age at onset of alcohol use and its association with DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence: Results from the Nation Longitudinal Alcohol Epidemiologic Survey. *Journal of Substance Abuse* 9: 103-110.

³ Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). (2004). *Substance Abuse Treatment by Primary Substance of Abuse, According to Sex, Age, Race, and Ethnicity*.

⁴ Center for Disease Control (CDC). (2005). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).

⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *SAMHSA Grant Awards – State Summaries FY 2005/2006*. Available: <http://www.samhsa.gov/statesummaries/index.aspx>.

⁶ U.S. Department of Education. Fiscal Year 2001-2007 State Tables for the U.S. Department of Education. Available: <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/index.html>.

TEEN DRIVING AND DUI FACT SHEET

- During the first 41 months of the Iraq War, 2,600 American troops died in combat and war-related incidents. In the same 41-month period, 22,000 teenagers, aged 15-19, died in traffic crashes on US highways.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, male teens are more likely than females to die in motor vehicle crashes. Two of three crash death victims aged 13-19 in 2003 were male.
- The 2006 annual Teens Today survey, sponsored by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and the Liberty Mutual insurance company, found that 19 percent of teens drive under the influence of alcohol, 15 percent drive after using marijuana, and 7 percent report driving under the influence of other drugs.
- During the years 2002-2006, 13 percent of the at fault drivers in fatal DUI collisions in South Carolina were 20 years of age or under, those who cannot even legally possess alcoholic beverages.
- An average of 26 teens between the ages of 15 and 18 die each year in DUI-related crashes on South Carolina's roadways.
- Research conducted on behalf of SCDPS last year revealed some troubling findings. Teens have an over-confident attitude in their ability to drive while under the influence of intoxicating substances. Teens said they got a thrill from driving dangerously and told researchers that there were few things that could motivate them to refrain from drinking and driving.
- Members of this year's graduating class entered their freshman year in 2004. Since then, more than 400 of their classmates throughout the state of South Carolina have died in traffic collisions.
- Although the causes behind the collisions varied, nearly 35 percent of the class of 2008 killed in traffic collisions died in DUI-related crashes. Most of them were driving while drunk, and teenage boys died at twice the rate as girls.

Information compiled by the Office of Highway Safety of the SC Department of Public Safety.